

Towards Employment: Meeting the Complex Needs of Adults with FASD

Regina Community Clinic (FASD Centre) & Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (OLES)
(Saskatchewan, Canada) <http://www.reginacommunityclinic.ca/>

Since 2004 the Regina Community Clinic's FASD Centre has worked with more than 200 individuals (adults, teens, and children) and families impacted by FASD. With that experience we have offered a variety of programs and services that were funded by a number of grants.

In 2009 we received a grant from the federal Office of Literacy and Essential Skills to create a learning guide (similar to a curriculum) and assessment tools for adult learners with FASD. We piloted the materials for 12 months in a learning environment with a small group of adult learners who were diagnosed with FASD (or there is reasonable professional belief they are impacted by exposure to pre-natal alcohol).

The materials and classroom pilot project were designed and facilitated by a team of highly qualified individuals: a teacher, teacher aide, educational psychologist, and occupational therapist. The classroom program is intended to be facilitated by a certified teacher who has experience in teaching adults and is familiar with FASD.

Because many adults with FASD would benefit from individualized learning plans, we developed a set of learning modules to enhance workplace literacy: math, reading, and writing. We know that people with FASD often struggle with learning and this struggle continues into adulthood. As part of the program our adult learners also experienced workplace tours, job shadowing, and work experience. Everything we developed is developed specifically for adults with FASD.

The Literacy Kit includes:

- learning modules, lesson plans, sample worksheets, and templates,
- learning assessment tools,
- employer/community information kits,
- power point presentations for employers/community,
- a how-to guide (ideas to run the program in your community - sample job descriptions, creating the learning space, etc),
- and a background information guide to FASD.

The Literacy Kit will be available FREE to interested agencies and individuals in August 2010.

If you would like to receive our Literacy Kit, please contact me for more information or to be added to our mailing list for more information. You can reach me by phone 306-543-7880 ext 268, or by email: fasd@reginacommunityclinic.ca

Cheryl Charron, Manager FASD Services